

"Idaho's First Door to the Corps"



November 10th, 1999

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"Idaho's First Door to the Corps" Officially opens on November 10th

by Brayton Willis, Boise Office

Walla Walla District was proud to welcome more than 150 guests to its "First Door to the Corps" open house. Those in attendance represented Idaho Congressional Offices, key members of State, county, municipal governments, as well as, Federal agency staff, A-E firms and other important citizens who were interested in the Corps role in Idaho.

LTC Bulen and Jim Waddell expressed their sincere thanks to all who attended.



During the afternoon event, Brent Coles, Boise City Mayor, took time from his busy schedule to offer welcome handshakes to our District and Division



representatives.

the boise office

One highlight of the event was Sacramento District's flood model. This 5-foot wide by 8-foot long scale model of a town depicts what would happen to buildings and other structures when a flood event hits.

Operated by Mike Guidry, SPK Operations Division, the model came complete with thunderstorm sound effects, an actual river of running water,



pumped from a bucket underneath the model, miniature homes, highways, bridges and a scale model railroad train which makes a circuit around the table when the model comes roaring to life.

The model is used to educate the public about the power of flooding events, the hazards of building in a floodplain and what options can be used to "flood proof" their communities.



Currently, some Districts like Sacramento, Seattle and Charleston have had sponsors request that models like this be constructed. Always booked well in advance, these models are

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operated by the Corps at seminars, trade shows, schools, and other special events to make the public aware of the dangers of flooding.



Great Team Support yields enormous success at Boise Office "Open House"

Seattle and Sacramento Districts pitch-in along with NWD Portland and Omaha Offices

By Debbie Willis, Boise Office

It was a great team effort by all and we want to say thanks to all who helped to make the Boise Open House an enormous success.



Over 150 folks came through the doors in 2-1/2 hours which shows the interest this community has in working with the Corps. Two days later, we fielded many calls thanking us for the invitation and opportunity to meet Corps folks.

Just from the Corps, we had representatives from the Walla Walla District, Lucky Peak Office, Regulatory Office, Seattle District, Northwestern Division - both the Portland Regional Office and the Omaha Regional Office, and we can't forget Mike Guidry who drove the flood model up all the way from our Sacramento District!

A very special thanks to all of you who helped set up the room and helped "always dreaded" clean up afterwards. We could not have done it without you. This was an exceptional team effort!



Here is a list of who attended

Boise Public Works Department,
The Mayor of Boise,
The Governor's office,
Ada County,
Idaho Transportation Department,
GSA,
Idaho Dept of Lands,
Idaho Association of Counties,
University of Idaho,
Ada County Highway Department,
Morrison Knudsen,
CH2MHill,
Idaho Rivers United,
National Weather Service,
Economic Development Admin.,
Bureau of Reclamation,
Flood Control Districts,
Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services,
HDR,
Quadrant Consulting,
Portage Engineering,
ID State Historic Preservation Ofc,
Department of Commerce,
ID Department of Water Resources,
Senator Larry Craig's office,
Congressman Chenoweth-Hage's ofc,
Congressman Simpson's office,
the US Attorney's office,
Boise Parks and Recreation,
Forest Service,
USGS,
Montgomery Watson,
West Valley Neighborhood Assn,
Maxim Technologies,
Idaho Assistant Attorney General,
Bureau of Land Management,
. . . . And other public and private citizens.

Corps folks that were on hand were:

LTC Bulen
Jim Waddell
Surya Bhamidipaty
Dennis Cannon
John Treadwell
Tony Weeks
Carl Christianson
Allen Pomraning
Ron White
Lisa Rodighiero
Diane Davis
Kim Callan
George Veighey
Dave Reese
Dave Brownell
Joyce Dunning
Jim Wood
Suzanne Taylor
Greg Martinez

Dan Tosoni, NWD
Rick Wilson, NWD
Tom Davis, NWD
Dennis Wagner, NWD
Mike Guidrey, SPK
Howard Blood, NWS

More Idaho Opportunities on the Horizon

"The Boise Open House was a great success in celebrating our newly awakened role in the region"

By Dennis Cannon, Chief, Planning

Much has happened over the past year and a half in our business development efforts. However, nothing compares with our recent successes. We now have work underway on three projects with Idaho Transportation Department.....and much more can come.

The Boise Office is up and running, convincing our Idaho customers that we are serious about serving them.

Many new CAP projects are coming over the horizon throughout Idaho (Paradise Creek, Gimlet, Idaho Dept. of Parks & Recreation, etc.). Work in the cleanup of abandoned mines is just around the corner (Stibnite Mine and construction Quality Support to USFS).

Very recently, we have been the catalyst to help Boise River 2000 develop their regional strategy for the Boise River Basin and just the other day, Mayor Coles of the City of Boise formally asked us to develop a multi-year work plan for planning, design and construction of flood and environmentally related work with them.

Along with these opportunities, EPA and HUD are interested in working with us on the initiation of Brownfields projects in Boise and Pocatello.

We have the opportunity to provide reservoir and school design and construction for the Nez Perce Tribe. We have led the development of a \$200M Northwest regional Lewis & Clark proposal for Corps & congressional consideration.

Our success in Idaho is directly related to how much energy each and every one in the District is willing to invest, and to our collective ability to harness and direct that energy to help our customers succeed.



Questions and Answers about the Boise Office

Q: How can I learn more about the Boise Office and what you are doing?

A: There are many ways you can find out:

1. Call or email any of the District's Business Development folks (Ron White, Allen Pomraning, Dana Knudtson, Lisa Rodighiero or Dennis Cannon).
2. Call or email Brayton Willis or Debbie Willis
3. Ask for a lunch bag briefing, we would be delighted to do a periodic update.

Q: So how many people do we serve in our District Area of Responsibility?

Of the approximately 1.2 million people within our district boundaries, approximately 900,000 (in 158 towns and cities) live in Idaho.

Q: So what is the Boise office going to do?

A. Try this list for starters:

1. Pioneer new relationships with our Idaho customers that optimize current CAP and GI authorities.
2. Provide better service to our Idaho customers
3. Hold the line on business costs
4. Maintain District competency to do new work
5. Develop and maintain customer trust
6. Lever A-E contractors and avoid A-E competition
7. Develop stronger relationships with sister districts
8. Establish closer relationships with Idaho Congressionals
9. Educate all District employees about our Idaho customers and their needs
10. Establish stronger networking with Federal, State and Local Idaho agencies, as well as NGOs
11. Dramatically improve probability of successfully completing projects on time and within budget . . . remember, opportunity (and money) follows performance
12. Offer "Face to Face" daily contact with Idahoans who are interested in doing business with the Corps or who need our assistance and/or technical capabilities

Q: Isn't that a lot of work for just two people?

A. It takes the whole District!

Q: Where are you located and do you have a mailing address and phone numbers?

A:

Mailing Address:
Boise Office
P.O. Box 2780
Boise, ID 83701-2780

Physical Address:
Borah Post Office – Rooms 150/150A
304 North 8th Street
Boise, ID 83702

Brayton Willis
Phone: 208-345-2064
Mobile: 208-850-6477

Debbie Willis
Phone: 208-345-2065
Mobile: 208-850-6577

Fax: 208-345-2263

We encourage your thoughts, suggestions for improvements, ideas, areas of potential opportunity, yes, and even criticisms of the Boise Office.

We ask for your input so that we can find ways to better perform our mission and to clearly articulate to our customers, ways we, the Corps of Engineers, can better serve the needs of the people in Idaho.

